background information including regarding political affiliations/learnings of the recommendee persons are made available to the Chief Justice of India for consideration by the Supreme Court Collegium. It is the Collegium which considers all the available information on the candidates and forms a view regarding their suitability or otherwise for appointment as Judges of the Supreme Court/High Courts. As per the above judgment of the Supreme Court, the responsibility for selection of candidates for appointment as Judges of Supreme Court and the High Courts lies with the judiciary.

There is no proposal at present before the Government to bring about any change in the present system of appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

Number of lawyers

4067. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of lawyers practising in the country, during the period between 2003 and 2007, State-wise and year-wise;

(b) whether there is an increase in the number of litigations, in proportion to the increase of lawyers; and

(c) what are the major problems of senior and junior lawyers?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) List enclosed as Statement (*See* below).

(b) There is no data available to indicate that docket explosion is in proportion to the increase in number of lawyers.

(c) The Bar Council of India is a statutory body to regulate working of the profession. It is for the Bar Council of India to ameliorate the legal profession to help junior lawyers to overcome their difficulties. The Government is willing to consider any such proposal.

Statement

State-wise and year-wise details of lawyers practising in the country during the period between 2003 *and* 2007

Sl. No.	States	Statement of total number of Advocates enrolled with the State Bar Councils as on				
		31.3.2003	31.3.2004	31.3.2005	31.3.2006	31.3.2007
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1.	Andhra Pradesh	53,173	58,986	58,986	67,274	67,752
2.	Assam, Nagaland, etc.	8,438	11,725	11,725	11,725	11,725
3.	Bihar	86,462	92,647	92,647	92,647	92,647
4.	Chhattisgarh	11,403	12,617	12,617	14,949	14,949
5.	Delhi	26,150	26,150	26,150	38,549	38,549
6.	Gujarat	41,820	44,858	44,858	47,794	47,794

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
7.	Himachal Pradesh	4,197	4,610	4,610	4,838	5,421
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	2,516	2,516	2,516	3,429	3,429
9.	Jharkhand	2,033	2,951	2,951	5,892	5,892
10.	Karnataka	48,265	44,617	44,617	44,617	44,617
11.	Kerala	33,894	34,470	35,841	36,437	36,437
12.	Madhya Pradesh	51,323	56,477	56,477	69,208	69,208
13.	Maharashtra & Goa	75,152	79,121	79,121	84,159	84,159
14.	Orissa	33,341	34,953	34,953	37,993	37,993
15.	Punjab & Haryana	38,652	40,474	40,474	46,676	46,676
16.	Rajasthan	34,485	37,299	37,299	40,823	40,823
17.	Tamil Nadu	41,670	41,670	41,670	52,477	52,477
18.	Uttar Pradesh	2,01,780	2,01,780	2,01,780	2,01,780	2,01,780
19.	West Bengal	52,261	52,261	52,261	52,261	52,261
	TOTAL:	8,47,015	8,80,672	8,82,043	9,53,528	9,54,589

Law Commission's review of rape laws

4068. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA A. HEPTULLA:
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Law Commission, in its report, has recommended a comprehensive review of the law relating to rape and sexual abuse of children;

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations in this regard;

(c) what is the view of Government on these recommendations and by when these would be accepted;

(d) how many recommendations are pending for consideration or have not been accepted; and

(e) the details thereof and the recommendations which have been accepted, so far?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Law Commission, in its 172nd Report of on "Review of Rape Laws", has made recommendations to amend various provisions relating to sexual assault including unlawful contact with a young person. It has recommended changes for widening scope of the offence in section 375 IPC (Rape) and to make it gender neutral.

(c) to (e) The Report was referred to the State Governments for seeking their views. The National Commission for Women has also recommended for changes in the Rape Laws in its Annual Report 2004-05. Since the Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure are in the Concurrent